

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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UN Talks Shape Financial Development Framework

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Report Highlights:

The 3rd Financing for Development (FfD) Conference established the development financing framework for the post-2015 development agenda. The framework, among other things, recognizes international trade as an ‘engine for development.’ In particular, WTO members were asked to implement the Bali package, conclude Doha, prevent trade restrictions and market distortions, and provide duty- and quota-free market access to developing countries. At several FfD side events, the USG declared its continued support to global development, with USDA announcing its \$50+ million investment in the Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN) initiative.

General Information:

Ethiopia hosted the third Financing for Development Conference (FfD) from July 13-16, 2015. The underlying [purpose](#) behind the conference was to establish a “holistic and forward-looking framework,” dubbed the [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#), which will help guide efforts in addressing existing development financing challenges. Further, this Action Agenda is expected to underpin discussions at the United Nations summit in New York where the post-2015 development agenda, including the sustainable development goals (SDGs), will be adopted.

Senior U.S. government officials, led by U.S. Treasury Secretary Lew, participated in the conference as well as many of the associated side events. The U.S. delegation included representatives from the White House, Departments of Treasury and State, USAID, as well as the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) and the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC). At the conclusion of the conference, the White House released a [fact sheet](#) dealing with U.S. development priorities as it relates to FfD.

FfD-Related Outcomes for Agriculture & Trade:

The Action Agenda contains several noteworthy agriculture and trade-related points (Articles 79-92). International trade was recognized as ‘an engine for development,’ which among other things is expected to help promote food security, thereby contributing towards the realization of the SDGs. There was a commitment to “promote a universal, rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization (WTO), as well as meaningful trade liberalization.”

Further, WTO members were called upon to: (1) implement the Bali Package, including the decision on public stockholding for food security purposes; (2) conclude the Doha Development Agenda; (3) prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets and eliminate agricultural export subsidies; and (4) implement duty- and quota-free market access on a ‘lasting basis’ for all LDC-originating products, in accordance with WTO provisions. Meantime, developing countries were called upon to accelerate efforts towards WTO accession.

Conference Side Events on Food Security, Data and CAADP:

On the margins of the FfD Conference there were more than 150 planned side events. Of these, the United States organized and/or participated in several sessions on food security, data, as well as the AUC-led agriculture development program for Africa (CAADP).

Food Security: USAID-African Union Commission (AUC) held a joint event focused on the collaborative development work under the Feed the Future (FtF) initiative. Among the keynote speakers were USAID Acting Administrator Lenhardt, AUC Deputy Chairperson Erastus Mwencha, and, as the closing speaker, Ambassador Patricia Haslach.

In his [remarks](#), the Acting Administrator emphasized the importance of the agriculture sector, noting that it was ‘at least twice as effective at reducing poverty as growth in other sectors.’ While noting the remarkable efforts to date to achieve the MDGs, he stressed more must be done to address hunger and poverty. To address these challenges, Mr. Lenhardt underlined the importance of public-private

partnerships, like the [New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition](#), which has “catalyzed over \$10 billion in commitments from private companies.” In addition, he announced USDA’s plan to invest more than \$50 million towards the [Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition](#) (GODAN) initiative. In conjunction with this announcement, Dr. Catherine Woteki, USDA’s Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics, [blogged](#) about USDA’s continued commitment to sharing its agriculture and nutrition data with the goal of improving global food security.

Deputy Chairperson Mwencha reflected on the genesis and importance of CAADP, as well as its complementarity with FtF. With regards to the goals of ending hunger and reducing extreme poverty, he outlined four key areas of joint collaboration, including: (1) access to and application of technology; (2) access to finance; (3) access to markets; and (4) partnerships with the private sector. The Deputy Chairperson finished his remarks, stating that agriculture is the key to addressing human resource and skills development, health and nutrition, and education.

As the concluding speaker at the event, Ambassador Haslach reinforced the importance of the agricultural sector in generating inclusive economic growth. For this to happen, she underscored how the government must create an enabling environment in which the private sector can operate in support of food security and other development goals.

Data: The ONE Campaign sponsored a side event on how to harness data for sustainable development. U.S. Treasury Secretary Lew was among the keynote speakers. In his [address](#), he emphasized “the smart deployment of science, technology, and data can unlock billions in additional economic value, giving rise to entrepreneurial businesses, innovation, and improved, more-efficient services.” As evidence of the U.S. commitment towards open data, Secretary Lew announced that the U.S. government, alongside other partners, would provide \$3 million to support the newly-launched Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data initiative. He also affirmed U.S. backing for the GODAN project.

CAADP: The AUC held a dinner [roundtable](#) with leaders from government and development partners, including the private sector, to discuss the mobilization of public and private resources to implement the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) in reaching the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation. (See GAIN [ET1510](#) for details on the Malabo targets and implementing framework.)

At the event, several senior-level AUC officials made [remarks](#). AUC Deputy Chairperson Mwencha emphasized the importance of the ag sector and the ‘urgent need to improve domestic resource mobilization’ to facilitate development. Mrs. Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, Commissioner of the AUC Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA), underscored the significance of the private sector in development, adding that governments must create a business-friendly environment in which companies can thrive. Senior U.S. participants included USAID Acting Administrator Lenhardt and Ambassador Brigety.